

March 11, 2019

Mr. Stephen Jonsson, Chairman  
Manatee Board of County Commissioners  
1112 Manatee Avenue West, Suite 903  
Bradenton, Florida 34205

Dear Chairman Jonsson:

Since 1955, Mote Marine Laboratory has been dedicated to world-class research in marine biodiversity, healthy habitats and natural resources. Today, our oceans increasingly demand the focus of our scientists, but we've become site constrained and can no longer expand our internationally significant research.

To clear much-needed space at our main campus, we are planning the re-birth of Mote Aquarium on the mainland, as a new and enhanced Science Education Aquarium – Mote SEA – to be established on 12 acres within Nathan Benderson Park, a nexus location for Manatee and Sarasota counties and the region.

Mote SEA will be an iconic facility featuring displays from around the world. On-site workforce training, and teaching labs that offer no-cost opportunities for every Manatee-Sarasota school student, will support bright futures in STEM fields. Mote SEA will also feature much-needed conference and event spaces.

The facility's construction, alone, will benefit Florida's economy through \$280 million in direct and indirect expenditures. Beyond the one-time benefits of construction, Mote SEA by itself will support more than 260 direct and indirect jobs and provide approximately \$28 million annually in economic benefits.

We are excited to serve children and families in Manatee County Schools, hire Manatee County companies for many components of the construction and ongoing maintenance of Mote SEA, and provide a significant, ongoing economic and environmental impact for Manatee County, the region and the oceans.

To accomplish those goals, we respectfully request a financial commitment of \$15 million from Manatee County to partially address the \$130 million of total construction-related expenses. Your support would complement the contributions of donors who have provided or pledged more than \$30 million to-date.

I look forward to discussing this in person with the entire Board and hope you are as excited as we are about the significantly positive impact that Mote SEA will have on Manatee County and the region.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Crosby, PhD, FLS  
President & CEO

**BOCA GRANDE OUTREACH OFFICE**

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(941) 855-9251

**ELIZABETH MOORE INTERNATIONAL CENTER  
FOR CORAL REEF RESEARCH & RESTORATION**

24244 US Highway  
Beverly Hills, FL 33042  
(305) 345-9534

**MOTE AQUACULTURE RESEARCH PARK**

501 W. Main Way  
Sarasota, FL 34230  
(941) 388-4541

**MOTE LIVING REEF EXHIBIT AT THE NOAA  
ECO-DISCOVERY CENTER**

35 East Quay Road  
Key West, FL 33040  
(305) 296-2325

A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO ADVANCING THE SCIENCE OF THE SEA AND IS A MEMBER OF:

American Academy of Underwater Sciences • Arts & Cultural Museum of Sarasota • Association of Zoos & Aquariums • Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean • Consortium for Ocean Leadership • Economic Development Council of Manatee County • Florida Institute of Oceanography • Florida Ocean Alliance • Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce • Gulf of Mexico Coastal Ocean Observing System • International Association of Aquatic & Marine Science Libraries & Information Centers • International Consortium for Marine Conservation • Regional Association of Marine Laboratories Science & Environment Council of Sarasota County • Sea Grant • Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association • Southern Association of Marine Laboratories